

# The Monitor

February, 1993

Commodore Users Group of Saskatchewan

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## Obligatory Stuff CUGS

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If you have any questions about CUGS please feel free to contact any of the above executive members.

The Monitor is published monthly by the COMMODORE USERS' GROUP OF SASKATCHEWAN (CUGS), Regina, Sask. CUGS meetings are held the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of every month ( unless otherwise noted ) at Miller High School. The next meeting will be held: **February 3, 1993 from 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.**

CUGS is a non-profit organization comprised of C64, 64C, C128, and 128D users interested in sharing ideas, programs, knowledge, problems and solutions with each other. Membership dues are pro-rated, based on a January to December year.

Anyone interested in computing is welcome to attend any meeting. Out of town members are also welcome, but may be charged a small ( \$5.00 ) mailing fee for newsletters. Members are encouraged to submit **public domain** software for inclusion in the **Cugs Disk Library**. These programs are made available to members. Any member is entitled to purchase disks from our public domain library for a nominal fee. Programs are "freeware" from computer magazines, or the public domain. Individual members are responsible for deleting any program that he/she is not entitled to by law ( you must be the owner of the magazine in which a particular program was printed ). To the best of our knowledge, all such programs are identified in their listings. Please let us know if you find otherwise

## The Presidents Message

At our last meeting I asked for input on what kind of things the club as a whole wanted to see presented. The over all input received was for more presentations on telecommunications, GEOS and The Big 3 (word processing, spreadsheet and database applications ). Well this Feb. meeting is a direct response to the first of these requests.

At this meeting we have Garth demoing some of the things that a modem owner can do with his equipment and some of the services available to them. We hope to spend more time on telecommunications and answer some questions you have about modems and their uses.

Telecommunications is becoming more and more common place with computer users. It opens up your computer to the vast information pool out there in the world and allows you to connect to other computers. You can talk to other computer users by dialling up a Public BBS or a Commercial BBS and typing in messages addressed from you to whoever it is you want to type to. The other person at a later time can call the same BBS at his/her convenience and receive your message, read it and reply back to you.

Besides messages, you can browse around and look at different areas available on the BBS and look at programs or files that you can get for next to free. The only cost to you is your time and phone costs. The Public BBS' are usually free access and have very active message areas and a large selection of files for the taking. Their download sections ( where the files are kept ) usually range from 0 to several megs to hundreds of megabytes ( 1,000,000 bytes ). There are several dozen BBS' here in Regina that are absolutely free. Commercial ones on the other hand, are very large and have several gigabytes of files on line and most of them have costs associated with them as well as long distance charges. Compuserve, Genie and Quantumlink to name a few.

These giants in telecommunications conger

## *Editors Message*

up images of large computer main frames that take up several thousand square feet located in a far away major metropolitan city that costs money to access. In fact they do. They have hundreds if not thousands of areas. Like on line shopping, on line banking, Dow Jones Stock Exchange Prices, on line conferences for software developers ( or any other special interest groups called sigs ),interactive games where you play games with another caller, a CB channel where you can listen in on a so called CB channel and start up a convo with someone in Australia or Mexico and so on. The services are vast and in some cases outright ridiculous.

There are several BBS' here in Regina that are run commercially on a smaller scale and the costs are very reasonable. These BBS' are usually run by computer vendors like FACT Computers, TTL and Computerway to name a few. These local BBS' charge very little, if at all for their services. FACT Computer for example is probably the fastest growing BBS in Regina and boasts over a gigabyte of files ( 1,000,000,000 bytes ) and do not charge for on line time but do limit your time and how many bytes you can take. For 20.00 per year, you are allowed 3 hours of on line time and unlimited downloading privileges.

You probably already know that this club itself has a BBS with a very large message base and over 40 megs of on line storage which is now over 2/3 full of various files free for the taking. All you need to do is dial 543-7683 via your modem, log on and try things out and see what it will do for you. All it would cost you is your time. It will increase the usefulness of your computer. Have a question or problem? Leave a message describing your problem and wait for a reply ( usually by the next day ). Chances are, you will get an answer. Have something to sell, leave a message in the FOR Sale Message Area. Like to talk about technical things like programming, electronics, repairing things, cars, Cds or what have you, LEAVE A MESSAGE. Its another great way to have a conversation with somebody and make new friends.

Well, till next time Have a Good One.!!

Well here it is my first attempt at the monitor. You have probably already noticed that it isn't exactly a long monitor by any means but there are a couple of good reasons for this. First of all I am a rookie, second there were very few ( none ) submissions. In a way that's good I guess as it was a little easier to format my first issue. I will do my best to make your monitor as good as Jarrett did ( yeah right ). Well that's all for now folks talk to you next month.

**Remember Deadline for  
Submissions for  
the Monitor is Feb. 19/93**

